

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 5 1. A method of treating or preventing obesity in a mammalian subject, comprising the step of supplying an ER α selective compound to said mammalian subject.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said ER α selective compound is an ER α agonist.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said mammalian subject is adult.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said mammalian subject is human.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein gonadal fat levels are reduced as a percentage of body weight to about 1.25% or below.
6. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment or prevention of obesity, comprising an ER α selective compound and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 20 7. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 6, wherein said ER α selective compound is an ER α agonist.
8. A method of screening compounds for efficiency in the treatment or prevention of obesity,

comprising the step of determining the ER binding properties of said compounds.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said compounds are selected on the basis of being ER α selective compounds.

5

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said compounds which are selected are ER α selective agonists.

11. A method of reduction of serum lipoprotein levels in a mammalian subject, comprising the step of supplying an ER α selective compound to said subject.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said ER α selective compound is an ER α agonist.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said subject is adult.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein said subject is human.

15. A pharmaceutical composition for the reduction of serum lipoprotein levels, comprising an ER α selective compound and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20

16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 15, wherein said ER α selective compound is an ER α agonist.

17. A method of screening compounds for efficiency in the reduction of serum lipoprotein levels, comprising the step of determining the ER binding properties of said compounds.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said compounds are selected on the basis of having
5 ER α agonist activity.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein said compounds which are selected are ER α selective agonists.

20. A method of screening compounds for use in the treatment of obesity and/or the reduction or lowering of serum lipid levels, the method comprising the use of cells, tissues in which an ER has been disrupted and selecting compounds which are ER α agonists.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein whole animals are used.